

haloacetic acids (HAA5). This group of disinfection by-products (Total HAA5) consists of the sum of dichloroacetic acid, trichloroacetic acid, monochloroacetic acid, monobromoacetic acid, and dibromoacetic acid. The amounts detected ranged from <0.001 mg/L to 0.031 mg/L. A maximum contaminant level of 0.060 mg/L for total HAA5s went into effect on January 1, 2002.

**Radon** - The Foxglenn Well was monitored for radon during 2001. The amount detected in the finished water of the well was  $96 \pm 13$  pCi/L. This amount is below the level that is being considered for the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for radon which is 300 pCi/L.

#### **Additional Health Information**

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS, or other immune system disorders. Some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care provider. EPA and Center for Disease Control guidelines, on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium*, are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

**Microbial Contaminants:** Viruses, bacteria, and protozoan, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

**Inorganic Contaminants:** Salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

**Pesticides and Herbicide:** Which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, storm-water runoff, and residential uses.

**Organic Chemical Contaminants:** Include synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm-water runoff and septic systems.

**Radioactive Contaminants:** Which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration



**Clarifiers and storage tank at the Lake Mary Water Treatment Plant**

regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

#### **Revised Drinking Water Regulations**

**Arsenic** – Arsenic is a naturally occurring mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations. Epidemiological studies conducted in other countries indicate that high concentration of arsenic in drinking water, at several hundreds of parts per billion, have been shown to cause cancer. However there is insufficient data and information about lower levels of arsenic in the drinking water.

Recently the EPA lowered their standard for arsenic in drinking water from 50 ppb to 10 ppb, effective 2006. While your drinking water meets EPA's new standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

**Haloacetic Acids** – Haloacetic acids are disinfection by-products that are formed when chlorine is used as the disinfectant. These compounds can increase the risk of cancer, and became regulated as of January 1, 2002 with a MCL of 0.060 mg/L.

Thank you for reading this important information on your water's quality. We'll be happy to answer questions about the City of Flagstaff's water. Call Jack Rathjen at the Lake Mary Water Treatment Plant at (928-774-0262), or find information on your water system on the City of Flagstaff web-site at [www.flagstaff.az.gov](http://www.flagstaff.az.gov). Water quality data for community water systems throughout the United States is also available at [www.waterdate.com](http://www.waterdate.com).

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